

# Family Violence


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# Introduction

- **Incidence and Prevalence**
  - **Historical Perspective**
  - **Theoretical Considerations**
  - **Child Abuse and Neglect**
  - **Intimate Partner Violence**
  - **Elder Abuse**
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# Incidence and Prevalence

1. Which of the following statements is true regarding the prevalence of domestic violence?
    - (a) One half of all murdered women were killed by an intimate partner in 1998.
    - (b) Sixty percent of all murders involve family members.
    - (c) Women assault their partners as often as men assault women.
    - (d) Ninety percent of physical violence is severe enough to be called “wife beating.”
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# Incidence and Prevalence

**Question 1: The correct answer  
is “C”.**



# Incidence and Prevalence

2. **Child abuse and neglect were described in the US medical literature in the:**
    - (a) 1780s
    - (b) 1840s
    - (c) 1920s
    - (d) 1960s
    - (e) 1980s
- 




# Incidence and Prevalence

**Question 2: The correct answer  
is “D”**



# Incidence and Prevalence

- 3. Which of the following is the most common form of elder abuse in domestic settings?**
- (a) Physical abuse**
  - (b) Sexual abuse**
  - (c) Emotional abuse**
  - (d) Abandonment**
  - (e) Neglect**
- 



# Incidence and Prevalence


**Question 3: The correct answer  
is “E”**






# Historical Considerations

## ● Child Maltreatment

- Spans entire history of our nation
  - Children traditionally viewed as “property” until the 1900’s
  - 1874 - Case of Mary-Ellen Wilson
  - Mid-1960’s - enactment of child protection laws
- 




# Historical Considerations

- Intimate Partner Violence
  - Similar to children, wives were seen as property of their husbands in our culture
  - “Rule of Thumb” - men given societal sanction to use a stick (no wider than a thumb) to correct wife’s behavior
  - 1970’s - mandatory arrest laws introduced
  - 1985 - Thurman vs. City of Torrington
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# Historical Considerations

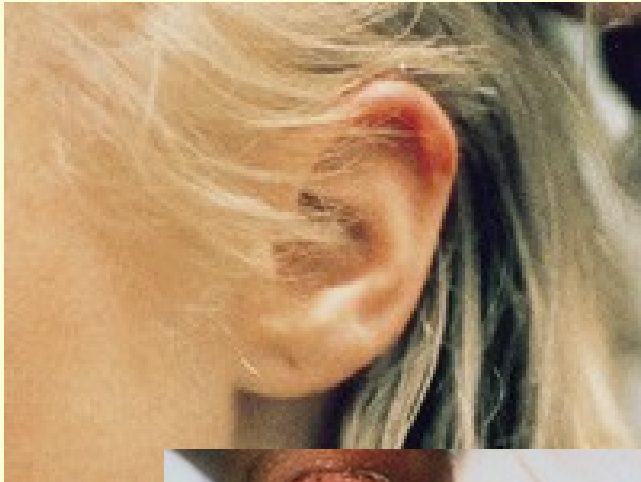
- Elder Abuse
  - America is a youth-oriented culture
  - As a result, elder abuse has gone generally unrecognized until recently
  - 1975 - “Granny Battering” first described in the literature
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# Theoretical Perspectives

- Why does abuse happen?
  - Feminist models - Male power/control
  - Exchange theory - benefits outweigh costs
  - Developmental - insecure attachments
  - Social Learning/Trauma Models - generational transmission
- 


# Child Abuse and Neglect





# Child Abuse and Neglect


## Types of child maltreatment

1. **Physical**
  2. **Emotional**
  3. **Sexual**
  4. **Neglect**
- 



# Child Abuse and Neglect

## Risk Factors

1. **Children living in single parent homes**
  2. **Children in large families**
  3. **Children from families with an annual income < \$15K**
- 



# Child Abuse and Neglect

## Characteristics of Victims

### 1. Gender:

Minor physical abuse - equal risk for abuse

Major physical abuse - males at slightly higher risk (54 to 46%)

Sexual abuse - majority of reports are female; male sexual abuse

may be underreported

### 2. Age:

The younger the child, the higher the risk for physical abuse

Prepubescence (ages 7-12) most vulnerable age for CSA







# Child Abuse and Neglect


## Characteristics of Perpetrators

### 1. Relationship to victim

Parent's most likely perpetrators of physical abuse (82% of cases)  
Male CSA victims -> friend, acquaintance, stranger  
Female CSA victims -> family member

### 2. Psychological characteristics

Emotional/behavioral difficulties - anger, low self-esteem, rigidity  
Family/interpersonal difficulties - marital issues, isolation, abuse  
hx  
Parenting difficulties - unrealistic expectations, negative bias  
toward child, child used to meet adults needs





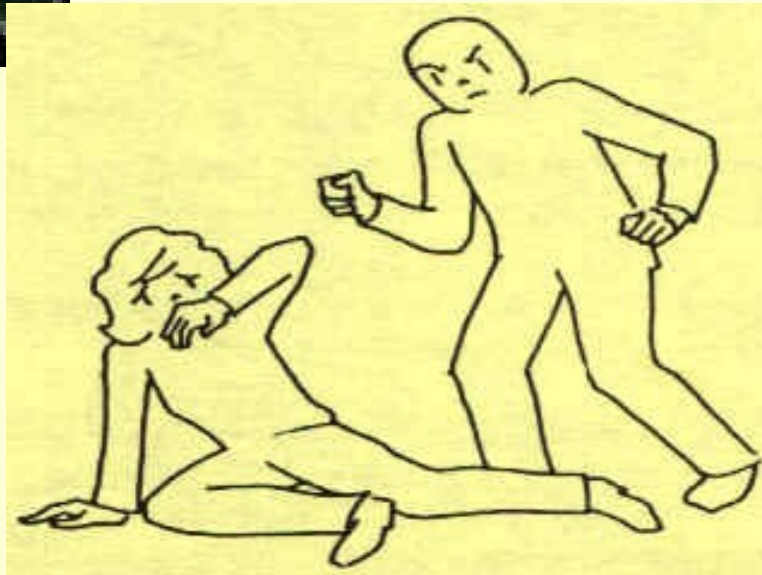
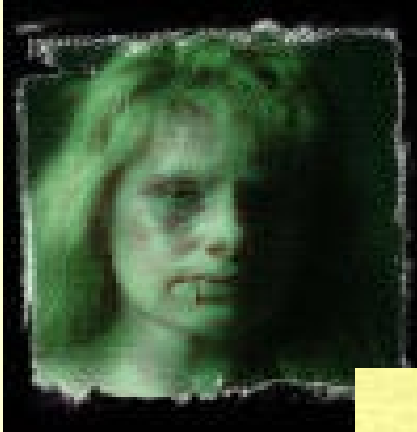
# Child Abuse and Neglect



## Recognition of abuse

1. **Child physical abuse - bruises, burns, abrasions, bite marks, falls, fractures (explanation inconsistent with type/magnitude of injury)**
  2. **Child sexual abuse - History (allegations by someone or clear statement by child) and Physical (nonspecific and/or specific findings)**
  3. **Child Neglect - health care, personal hygiene, nutritional, inadequate shelter, abandonment, etc.**
  4. **Physicians are mandatory reporters of any suspected child maltreatment**
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# Intimate Partner Violence



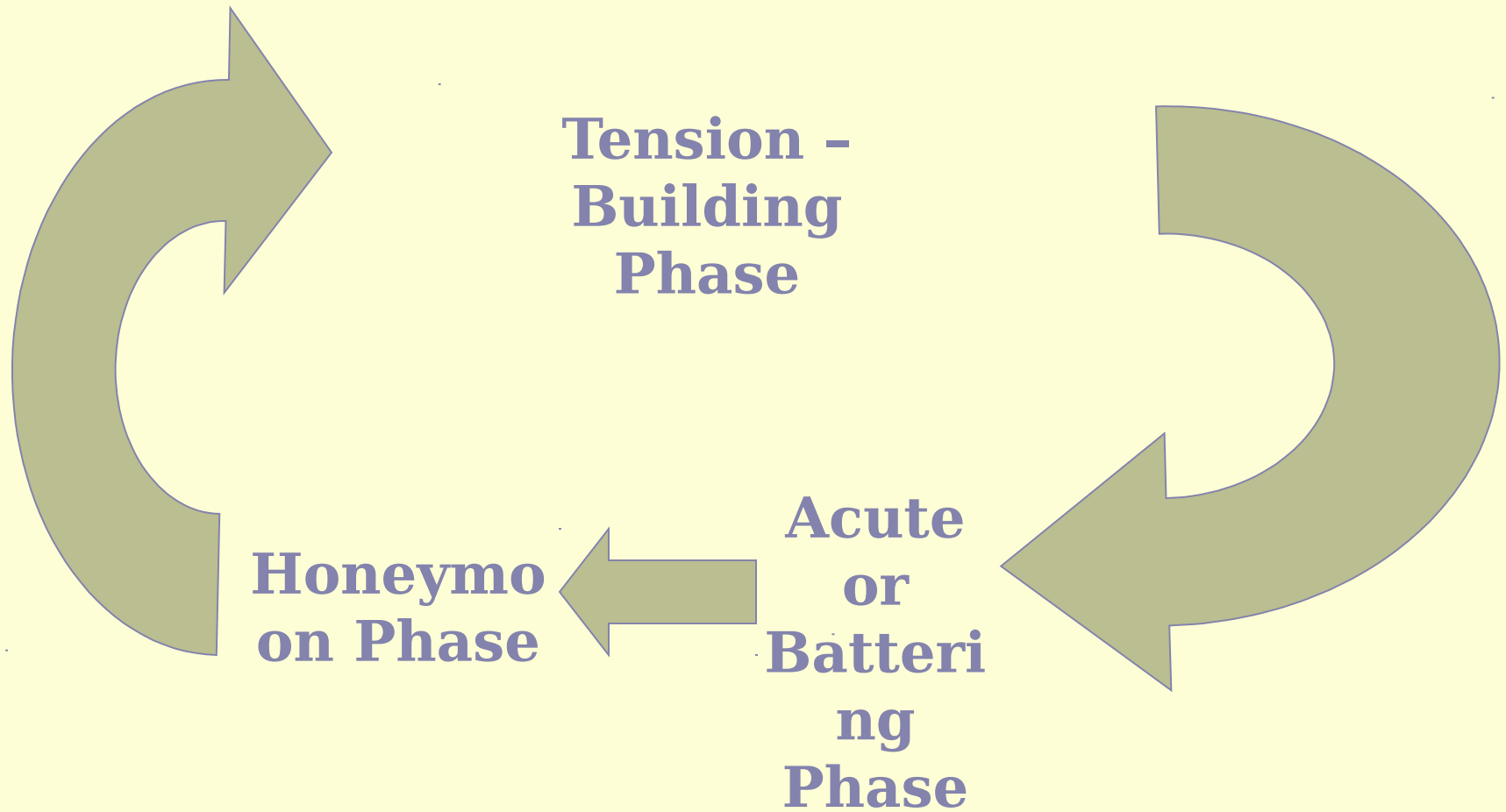


# Intimate Partner Violence

## Risk Factors for Spousal Abuse

1. Family history of parental violence
  2. One or both spouses abused as children
  3. Low self-esteem
  4. Unequal power in marital relationship
  5. Substance abuse
  6. Inadequate coping skills (anger/hostility)
  7. Low SES (<20K), Youth (18-24), and Pregnancy
- 

# Cycle of Violence



Walker (1979)



# Intimate Partner Violence



## Screening for abuse



Woman abuse screening tool (W.A.S.T) - short form



Correctly identifies 91% of abused women and 100% of non-abused women (also used with men)

1.

In general how would you describe your relationship?



A lot of tension (80.8% positive for abuse)



Some tension (15.4% positive)



No tension (3.8% positive)

2.

Do you and your partner work out difficulties with:



Great difficulty (69.2% positive)




Some difficulty (23.1% positive)



No difficulty (7.7% positive)


Brown, Lent, and Brett  
(1996)





# Intimate Partner Violence

## Intervention

1. Family physicians routinely see cases of domestic violence
  2. Research shows health care professionals may be hesitant to intervene (Pandora's Box)
  3. Physicians should communicate concern for patient welfare, develop a safety plan, and refer for social services (shelters, counseling, advocacy, etc)
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# Elder Abuse








# Elder Abuse




## Types of Elder Abuse

1. **Physical** - use of physical force causing injury
  2. **Sexual** - nonconsensual sexual contact of any kind
  3. **Emotional** - inflicting distress (verbal or nonverbal)
  4. **Financial/material** - improper use of funds/assets
  5. **Neglect** - failure to fulfill obligations or duties
  6. **Abandonment** - desertion of an elderly person
  7. **Self-neglect** - behaviors that threaten health or safety
- 



# Elder Abuse

- **Characteristics of abused elderly**
  - **“Typical” abused elder - older woman who is supporting a dependent adult child or a disabled or cognitively impaired spouse (Wolf & Pillemer, 1989)**
  - **Risk increases related to.....**
    - 1. Living with others (particularly grown children)**
    - 2. Isolation from contact with others (friends, etc)**
    - 3. Gender (simply more elderly females)**
    - 4. No apparent SES or racial risk factors noted**
- 



# Elder Abuse



## Screening for elder abuse

1. Has anyone hurt you at home?
2. Are you afraid of anyone in your home?
3. Have you been threatened?
4. Have you been forced to sign documents that you don't understand?
5. Has anyone failed to help care for you?

Aravanis, 1994






# Elder Abuse



## Intervention



**A 72-year-old woman who lives alone is noted to have multiple bruises over her upper arms and chest. Abuse is suspected although the patient vehemently denies this. The clinician should:**


- 1. Ask the patient to return in 1 to 2 weeks for an in-depth evaluation.**
  - 2. Call the neighbors to find out additional information.**
  - 3. Contact the adult children and ask them for an explanation of the bruising.**
  - 4. Report the possible abuse to the appropriate authorities.**
  - 5. Provide the patient with information regarding elder abuse, her rights, and local resources.**
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# Elder Abuse

● **The correct answer is “4”.**

AAFP Home Study Self -  
Assessment  
Monograph 274, March 2002





# Questions?

